

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /104 W

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O P 291404Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0743

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK(NI)

SUBJECT: UWC ENDS GENERAL STRIKE

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST

MAY 29:

1. ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL MORNING MAY 29 ENDED WHAT HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY A GENERAL STRIKE. STATEMENT OF UWC COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF LOYALISTS PARAMILITARY AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, CALLED FOR PHASED RETURN TO WORK, BEGINNING WITH ELECTRICAL POWER AND GAS, AND RESTORATION OF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES IF BRITISH ARMY "UNCONDITIONALLY WITHDRAWS" FROM OIL STORAGE TANKS AND FILLING STATIONS IT TOOK OVER MAY 27. ECONOMIC LIFE OF PROVINCE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO NORMAL WITHIN A WEEK.

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2. UWC STATEMENT CALLED AGAIN FOR FRESH ELECTIONS, AND ALSO URGED THE RELEASE OF 31 LOYALISTS RECENTLY DETAINED ON INTERIM CUSTODY ORDER, AN END TO DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, AND REVIEW OF EMERGENCY POWERS ACT. UWC ASSURED ROMAN CATHOLICS THAT LOYALIST POPULATION WOULD NOT ATTACK THEM AND HOPED THAT NEWLY ELECTED ASSEMBLYMEN COULD SIT AROUND TABLE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM DUBLIN OR LONDON TO WORK OUT POLITICAL FUTURE FOR ULSTER.

3. A UWC SPOKESMAN SAID DECISION TO END STRIKE WAS IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC OPINION. COMMENT: PREVIOUS DAY UWC HAD SAID THEY WOULD AWAIT STATEMENT FROM HMG; BUT CELEBRATIONS IN PROTESTANT AREAS AFTER UNIONIST RESIGNATION FROM EXECUTIVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT STRIKE'S SUPPORTERS FELT STRIKERS HAD ALREADY WON. ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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